EXCISE

Department of State

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PAGE 01 BUENOS 03465 252348Z

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 ORM-02 H-02 L-03 SCCT-01 ACDA-07

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 INR-07 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 /082 W
---------- 074293
P R 2516302 MAY 76
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5780
INFO AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 3465

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM, AR, UY
SUBJECT: ABDUCTION AND MURDER OF URUGUAYAN REFUGEES MICHELINI AND GUTIERREZ; STATUS OF FERREIRA

REF: A. STATE 127301, B. STATE 125347, C. BUENOS AIRES 3390, D. STATE 125309

1. BODIES OF MICHELINI AND GUTIERREZ WERE FOUND EVENING OF MAY 21 (NOT MAY 22) IN CAR IN BUENOS AIRES, ALONG WITH BODIES IDENTIFIED AS WILLIAM WHITELAW BLANCO AND MRS. ROSARIO DEL CARMEN BARREDO DE SCHROEDER. WE HAVE NO FURTHER INFORMATION CONCERNING LATTER TWO, EXCEPT THAT THEY WERE REPORTED BY PRESS TO HAVE BEEN LIVING TOGETHER AND TO HAVE BEEN ABDUCTED AT SAME TIME. ALL BODIES SHOT NUMEROUS TIMES, IN FASHION REFERRED TO BY PRESS AS TYPICAL OF "TRIPLE A" OPERATIONS SO COMMON DURING LAST REGIME. POLICE REPORTED THAT A "SUBVERSIVE ORGANIZATION" CLAIMED CREDIT FOR KILLINGS IN PAMPHLETS LEFT IN CAR.

2. BODIES OF MICHELINI AND GUTIERREZ RUIZ HANDED OVER TO RELATIVES MAY 23. WE NOTE UP REPORT FROM MONTEVIDEO THAT MICHELINI TO BE BURIED THERE MAY 25; BODY IS APPRENTLY ALREADY ON WAY TO MONTEVIDEO.

3. GOA HAS SO FAR MADE NO PUBLIC STATEMENT ABOUT MURDERS OTHER THAN POLICE ANNOUNCEMENT OF FINDING OF BODIES. LA

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY [signature] DATE 4/20/82
PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

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OPINION, THE NEWSPAPER WHICH HAS TAKEN LEAD IN RAISING QUESTIONS ABOUT ABDUCTIONS AND DEATHS, HAS HAD CALLS FROM SEVERAL HIGH OFFICIALS OF GOA, INCLUDING FROM OFFICE OF PRESIDENT VIDELA, EXPRESSING DEEP SORROW AND REGRET OVER DEATH OF MICHELINI, WHO HAD BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH PAPER. LA OPINION ON MAY 23 CARRIED LETTER WRITTEN BEFORE ABDUCTION BY MICHELINI TO COLLEAGUE ON PAPER IN WHICH MICHELINI STATED THAT HE HAD RECEIVED SEVERAL EARNINGS THAT HE WOULD BE ATTACKED AND TAKEN TO URUGUAY BY FORCE. PURPOSE OF LETTER WAS TO ESTABLISH THAT ANY LATER CLAIM THAT HE HAD RETURNED TO URUGUAY VOLUNTARILY WAS FALSE. BUENOS AIRES PRESS TREATMENT OF MURDERS HAS BEEN MUTED, AND LIMITED TO COMMENT ABOUT DAMAGE INCIDENT WOULD DO TO ARGENTINE IMAGE.

4. UNHCR REPS WHO CALLED ON AMBASSADOR MAY 24 (SEPTEL) REPORTED GRAVE CONCERN IN URUGUAYAN EXILE COMMUNITY, AND SAID MAY URUGUAYANS ARE NOW ANXIOUS TO LEAVE ARGENTINA FOR SAFER REFUGE. THERE ARE REPORTS THIS MORNING THAT SE[illegible]AL URUGUAYANS NOW SEEKING ASYLUM IN EMBASSIES HERE.

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7. IN RESPONSE TO INSTRUCTION IN STATE 125309 NOTAL (RE HARDOY), WE ASSURE DEPT THAT WE HAVE REPEATEDLY WARNED

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PRESENT GOA LEADERS AT HIGHEST LEVEL SINCE AT LEAST LAST JANUARY, BEFORE THEY TOOK POWER, OF EFFECTS OF HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES ON U.S. OPINION-MOLDERS.
HILL

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